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The name's Smith. **Sam Smith**

Exclusive interview
with the man with
the golden lungs

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NME

Joanna Newsom's
new album swoops
in on **p28**

Hello...

THE EDITOR
IS AWAY...



I DON'T WANT THIS week's *NME* to peak too early, but the Editor's away and here's a little snippet from our cover feature with Sam Smith:

"I'm a gay man who came out when I was 10 years old, and there's nothing in my life that I'm prouder of. I want to be a spokesperson. I sell records in countries where gay men get killed and that's a big thing for me, because maybe one person in that country will pick up my album, realise it's by a gay artist, and it might change their opinion."

And that's before he gets into Bond (favourites: Connery and Moore), losing weight and how he was "born with a little bit of sadness in me". It's even more fun than that video of a boozed-up Smith rocking up to McDonald's in Rio De Janeiro at 5am, only to find it was closed.

Elsewhere in the issue you will find: Australia's coolest songwriter Courtney Barnett drinking whiskey with America's most intense songwriter Jack White; an essential dissection of the maddest plotlines the *Hollyoaks* writers have conjured in their 20 years on TV; an analysis of synaesthesia – the neurological phenomenon Lorde revealed she had last week – from medicine's Dr Jules Montague and exclusive snaps from the new Green Day documentary *Heart Like A Hand Grenade*. Enjoy.

TOM HOWARD
Deputy Editor
@tomahoward



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He's world famous and his Bond theme is the biggest ever, but he wants more

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Australia's coolest songwriter on drinking with Jack White and becoming a role model

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A regal collection of the soap's craziest storylines, to help celebrate its anniversary

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AGENDA

WHAT EVERYONE'S TALKING ABOUT THIS WEEK



Exclusive behind-the-scenes pics of Green Day's new film

***Heart Like A Hand Grenade* documents the recording of 'American Idiot'**

ELEVEN YEARS AGO, GREEN Day made the most important album of their career – and it just so happens someone was filming them every step of the way.

That someone was director John Roecker, who painstakingly documented the process behind the recording of 2004's game-changing 'American Idiot'.

The footage was then squirreled away for years, but the subsequent film *Heart Like A Hand Grenade* offers fresh

insight into the world of Billie Joe Armstrong, Mike Dirnt and Tre Cool, and goes behind the scenes as the band set about making their ambitious seventh album.

In preparation for the film, feast your eyes on this selection of exclusive pictures.

***Heart Like A Hand Grenade* is showing at selected cinemas for one day only on November 11, and will be available to buy digitally and on DVD from Nov 13**



She sees sounds

Last week Lorde revealed she has synaesthesia – a condition that can make you see sounds as colours. But what, exactly, is it? We asked an expert.

DURING AN IMPROMPTU Q&A ON her Tumblr, teenage pop superstar Lorde revealed that when she first wrote her 2013 super-smash 'Tennis Court', it was so boringly tan it made her feel sick. Then they worked out a pre-chorus and it turned green, which was loads better. Dr Jules Montague, a consultant neurologist at the Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust, tells us more.



DR JULES

Synaesthesia sounds pretty intense. What, exactly, is it?

Dr Jules: "It is a brain-processing

condition. I think of it in terms of your senses being tangled or joined-up, it's kind of a sensory cross-wiring, and because of that you get your senses mixed up."

Trippy. Can you give an example?

Dr Jules: "Vision and taste can get confused. You could see, maybe, the number three. And if you have synaesthesia you don't just see it, you also taste it. It might taste of coconut, egg yolk or Brussels sprouts – I kid you not. Another type is mirror-touch synaesthesia, and that's where you get the same sensation that someone else is experiencing. If they're whacked in the face, you feel pain in your own face, or if someone is stabbed, you feel the knife plunge in."

Why do you think so many musicians have it?

Dr Jules: "It's very contentious whether or not it gives people more talent, but I personally think it does. Studies have shown there is cross-wiring in the brain – so if you do scans on synaesthetes and stimulate the auditory parts of their brains, other parts of their brains light up as well. Where you and I just hear a note, some musical synaesthetes can taste it, smell it and see it. They've got this multimodal experience, so when they

Have you got synaesthesia?

The five most common forms are:

Grapheme-colour synaesthesia

You see colours in letters and numbers.

Chromesthesia

You see colours in the sound of, for example, music playing, doors opening or even cars honking.

Lexical-gustatory synaesthesia

When you hear words, you taste them. Subject of the documentary *Derek Tastes Of Earwax*.

Spatial sequence synaesthesia

You visualise numerical sequences, like dates and times, as points in space.

Ordinal linguistic personification

You see distinct personalities in ordered sequences like days and months.

If you think you're a synaesthete, don't worry! As Dr Jules says, "It's more of a difference than a disorder."



Lorde has visions of colours when she hears music

choose the choruses and bridges, they're based on all of those connections we can't see. It's like a creative passport that perhaps other people don't have."

Sounds good. Where can I get some?

Dr Jules: "They say that hallucinogenics simulate the condition. If you take LSD you do get this multimodal sensation, I'm guessing, where all your senses are stimulated to a degree that you might never have experienced before. So you could argue that synaesthetes are in a permanent hallucinogenic state."

So I can't learn it then?

Dr Jules: "There's quite a bit of research that has tried to instigate it. We know of a gene that's potentially connected with synaesthesia, but there are identical twins where only one of the twins

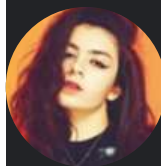
have it. The genetic contribution is probably around 40 per cent, but we know there must be other factors as well as just the genes."

Is it ever a problem?

Dr Jules: "The disadvantage if you're a musician could be that it's very overwhelming. If you're in a group or a choir or whatever and everyone is singing together, I would imagine that you're not just hearing one colour but there's a whole rainbow of colours coming into your head and competing – it's basically just sensory overload."

Who else has it?

And how it manifests in their minds



MARINA AND THE DIAMONDS

"'I Am Not A Robot' [Marina's 2010 single] is very light purple, with blues."



PHARRELL WILLIAMS

"It's how I identify when something's in key because it either matches the same colour or it doesn't."



CHARLI XCX

"I see music in colours. I love music that's black, pink, purple or red – but I hate music that's green, yellow or brown."

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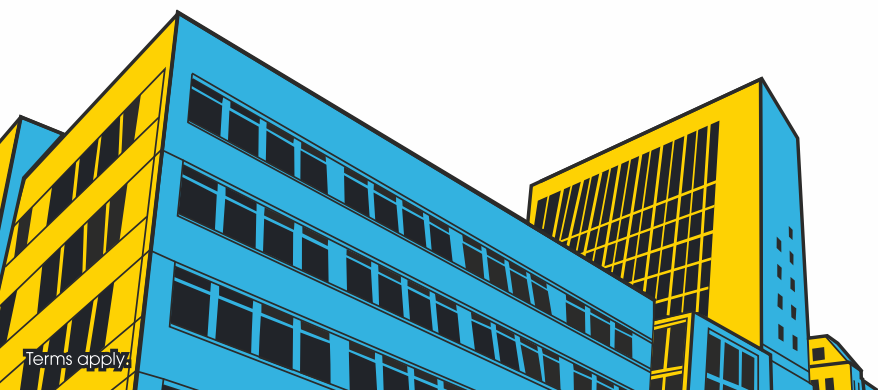


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Where is Luke Skywalker?

The hero of the first three *Star Wars* films has been missing from every *The Force Awakens* promo so far

THE WEB IS ABUZZ WITH FAN theories about what's happened to Luke Skywalker. He was noticeably absent from the *Force Awakens* trailer that dropped this Monday. Where is he? What's he doing? Here are five of the internet's weirdest suggestions.

Daisy Ridley in the latest *Force Awakens* trailer

1 HE'S LOST ON A DESERT PLANET

Origin: birthmoviesdeath.com
Gist: Luke Skywalker's severed hand and lightsaber – lost to his baddie daddy Darth Vader in 1980's *The Empire Strikes Back* – have tumbled into the path of *The Force Awakens*' main characters, Rey (Daisy Ridley) and Finn (John Boyega). Supposedly, after finding these bits of Luke, the pair then go on a quest, along with Han Solo and Chewbacca, to track down the rest of him.
Likelihood: 2/5

2 HE'S GONE OVER TO THE DARK SIDE

Origin: starwarsnewsnet.com
Gist: As anyone who's seen a *Batman* film or two will know, good guys shouldn't kill their nemeses, like Luke did at the end of *Return Of The Jedi*. Without the evil Emperor to fight against, Luke faces an existential crisis, becomes mad and evil, and according to this theory, kills his old pal Han Solo.
Likelihood: 1/5

3 HE'S LIVING IN SELF-IMPOSED EXILE

Origin: makingstarwars.net
Gist: Luke's done something apocalyptic and unforgivable with The Force. Not wanting to make the same mistakes as his dad, he's hidden away from society while his sanity slowly seeps away. It's up to *The Force Awakens*' new heroes (Rey and Finn) and villains (The Knights of Ren) to reawaken his interest in galactic affairs, for good or ill.
Likelihood: 4/5

4 HE'S PROTECTING AN ANCIENT SITH TOMB

Origin: makingstarwars.net
Gist: *The Force Awakens*' new Darth Vader, Kylo Ren, is going around collecting artefacts with his group The Knights of Ren. Luke's old lightsaber (the one he lost in *Episode V*) was once Vader's, and supposedly has the power to open an evil-housing Sith tomb.
Likelihood: 3/5

5 HE'S BEING HELD IN CAPTIVITY BY EVIL FOLKS

Origin: starwarsfans.wikia.com
Gist: Some bad guys are planning to use Luke's Jedi powers to activate a 'planet-based weapon' that has the power to destroy entire star systems – making him a more potent version of the Death Stars he went to such lengths to destroy. That's how irony plays out in *Star Wars*: with the deaths of billions of life forms.
Likelihood: 2/5

For more *Star Wars* go to NME.com



Lena Dunham

The *Girls* creator has partnered with HBO to make *Max*, a comedy pilot about a '60s mag writer.



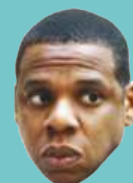
Adele

The singer made her return in an ad break during *The X Factor*, with a snippet of a new song.



Deerhunter

Bradford Cox's band played one song for 30 minutes in a show dogged by sound issues.



Jay Z

The rapper headed to court on charges of copyright infringement over 1999's 'Big Pimpin'.





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It is absolutely essential that you watch the second series of *Catastrophe*

But don't take our word for it. Take it from stars and writers Rob Delaney (who plays a man called Rob) and Sharon Horgan (who plays a woman called Sharon)

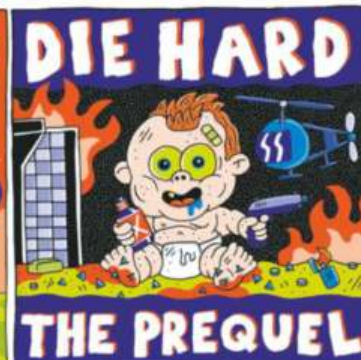
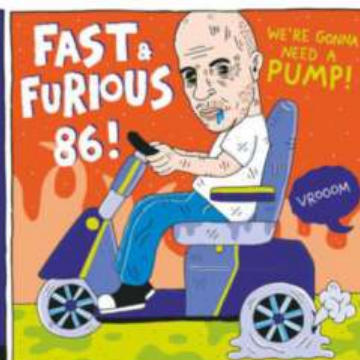
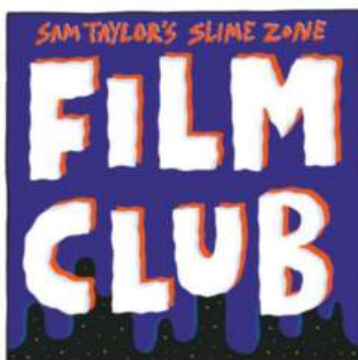
Sharon Horgan

"Having sex with random people is fine at a certain point in your life. That's no life as you get older, though. I think dating and marriage are even-stevens when it comes to comedy, but if you're gonna write about children and marriage, you can't write about it as people who have children and are married. It can't be knowing and nude-nudge wink-wink. You have to make jokes for everyone; they have to see themselves in what you're talking about. It's less of a romantic view of a relationship this time around. There was a lot of reality in the first series, but series two is much more: 'This is how it is.' There's a good chance people will watch it and see their own lives reflected back at them. I hope they feel we're offering some kind of empathy or kinship and they get a couple of answers from it. Mainly we want people to laugh, but we want to move them a little bit as well."

Rob Delaney

"The stakes are even higher for our characters this series. They were high in series one because our characters aren't 20 years old – they had to have a kid then or not have one – but now it's bananas because they're parents; it's a heavy-duty business. Churchill said that "democracy is the worst form of government except for all those other forms that have been tried", and that's marriage. I could list 50 things that suck about marriage, but what else am I gonna do? With all the energy I don't spend trying to get laid, I can write a show with my friend Sharon. Marriage can be a good way to structure your life. My hope is that hip young people, when they're watching, will either think, "Never! F***ing never!" or, "I wanna have five babies right now!" If you feel something in between, throw the TV out of the window and send me the bill."

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Read all about it

Russell Howard's take on the biggest news stories of 2015

AS HOST OF *RUSSELL HOWARD'S Good News*, it's the comedian's job to look at the news and take the p'ss out of it. The series has just returned to BBC Two, but in its absence from our screens he missed out on the chance to comment on Greece going broke, Fifa getting busted, Jeremy Corbyn rising to power and David Cameron's piggate. We took it upon ourselves to rectify that.

The refugee crisis

When: August

The story: So far this year approximately 600,000 refugees have fled Syria and Afghanistan, many seeking asylum in the EU.

Russell says: "It's such a weighty and serious issue that you can't really treat it light-heartedly. That said, *The Daily Star* took an odd angle on this; it ran an article basically saying that refugees were bringing fleas with big d*cks over to Britain with them through the Channel Tunnel. It was so weird."

Russell Howard



David Cameron and the pig

When: September

The story: The allegation that the PM placed a 'private part of his anatomy' into a dead pig's mouth.

Russell says: "It was basically a thing he did when he was a kid and there's no real evidence that he did it. The first thing it made me think of was that I've seen my mate Alan put his moves on a sleeping dog and I certainly wouldn't vote for him to run the country."



Pulled pork: the PM gets lucky



Corbyn and Channel 4's Krishnan Guru-Murthy

Labour's election disaster and Jeremy Corbyn

When: September

The story: Labour crashed and burned in May's General Election. Socialist Jeremy Corbyn was elected to lead after Ed Miliband stepped down.

Russell says: "There was a sleeping inevitability to Labour losing the election. That's what is so refreshing about Jeremy Corbyn, he's a different voice. He's the first left-wing politician who is comfortable talking about things he's passionate about. He will be great for our show because he represents an alternative point of view."

Junior doctors protest

When: October

The story: Junior docs have protested about pay cuts and proposed changes to their contracts.

Russell says: "Junior doctors are upset with the Government and every story about the NHS in the right-wing press is how much doctors get paid. The truth is, the NHS is an amazing institution and we should never let it die. Secretary of State for Health Jeremy Hunt wrote a book [*Direct Democracy*] on how to dismantle the NHS and now he's in charge of it!"



Junior doctors protest in Westminster

AGENDA

Suspended Fifa chief Sepp Blatter



Fifa scandal

When: May

The story: The body in charge of world football was accused of corruption – seven executives were arrested.

Russell says: "I'm a massive football fan and it's no surprise to me that Fifa is corrupt. It's been known for years, but all I care about is my team, Liverpool. If Liverpool were corrupt but could buy Messi and Ronaldo I'd be happy with that. What Sepp Blatter taught me is that all I want is for Liverpool to win the league."

Russell Howard's Good News is on BBC Two, Thursdays at 10pm

WORDS: DAVID RENSHAW PHOTOS: BBC, REX, GETTY

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Katherine Ryan

NME'S QUITE NEW COLUMNIST

ON...

Living with lupus

IHAD TO GET NAKED ON Wednesday. It was for a rap music video pastiche in a room filled with hot (in here) young dancers. I was revealed completely nude for the cameras and everyone said I was brave. Urgh. I've transitioned into 'brave' territory now. So that's happened. I know I haven't got the body of a supermodel or anything but I wasn't aware I'd reached a point where getting undressed was heroic. Total commendations, by the way, to any man who has been able to hold an erection under the circumstances of my nudity. They are the examples of true courage; staying in bed with me when they could have been out climbing trees, rescuing actual pussies instead.

Selena Gomez has been keeping her chin up lately, after revealing her struggle with lupus. According to the pop star, what the press thought to be a stint in rehab was actually a time when she became so ill she had to undergo chemotherapy. Justin Bieber, whose music is a cancer in my own life, helped Selena through that rough time and told her she was "the most beautiful girl in the world, no matter what". Aw. Selena has been

on a promotional tour for her new album, 'Revival', which was released on October 9. October is also Lupus Awareness Month.

Lupus is an auto-immune disease. Like Aids, but without the celebrity campaigners, and not contagious. It's where specific antibodies send a message to attack your own healthy organs and cells as though they were invaders. So if you had a genetic mutation that allowed a right-wing government to run your bloodstream, and your heart and lungs were innocent Syrian refugees, your immune system might mistake them for terrorists. Ridiculous, right? There'd be a battle over how many cells to let in, and which ones had links to ISIS. That fight would cause

inflammation, making you weak and sick. It could give you mouth ulcers, blood in your urine, rashes, joint pain, hair loss, pulmonary haemorrhage and lots more general f**kery to deal with. More than 90 per cent of lupus sufferers are women, and most of those are

Hispanic/Latino. It's the Donald Trump of diseases. And there's no cure.

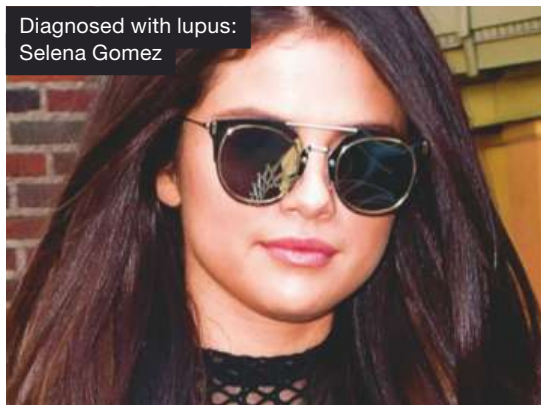
Or is there? I know a lot about systemic lupus erythematosus because I have

it too. I was diagnosed through the NHS when I first moved to England in 2008 following months of serious illness. I had a huge rash on my face that looked like a burn, around the time that Amy Winehouse was photographed with scabs on her cheek, either from rumoured impetigo or from putting out a cigar on it. Either way, I looked just as troubled. The drugs I was prescribed made me feel even worse.

My mother sent me a book by a lady who'd obliterated her symptoms through meditation and eating whole, raw foods. It was a pain in the ass to follow, but eventually it started working. I wish lupus on everyone,

because it taught me to relax. My life is so much better with lupus because I know that stress and too much junk food will literally put me in hospital. I got a kidney infection watching *The Notebook*. I got high off a can of Pringles. So now I just chill. I still see a medical doctor for check-ups every six months, and he tells me that diet has nothing to do with my miraculous recovery. Then he tells me I'm brave. And I put my clothes back on.

Diagnosed with lupus: Selena Gomez



Katherine Ryan's high five

Reasons to fall in love with Tinie Tempah

1 He always texts me back and has excellent emoji game.

Tinie by name, enormous in Canada

2 He has more UK Number Ones than any other rap artist and he's just 26 years old. When I was 26, all I had was one useless baby.

3 Tinie conceived his stage name *during class* (gangster for a 12-year-old) by searching 'angry' in a thesaurus.

4 He's really famous in Canada, which is *hard*. Nothing is famous in Canada besides poutine, hockey, apologising and Tinie Tempah.

5 He's a gentleman, and all about family. He let his cousin manage him. I won't even allow my own parents backstage.



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LIST FOR LIFE



BECAUSE EVERYONE LOVES A LIST

10 people Kanye West has compared himself to



1 Mahatma Gandhi

Kanye says: "Everything I'm not made me everything I am. In my humble opinion that's a prophetic statement. Gandhi would have said something like that." (*Rolling Stone*, 2007)



2 Steve Jobs

Kanye says: "I think what Kanye West is going to mean is something similar to what Steve Jobs means... I honestly feel that because Steve has passed, you know, it's like when Biggie passed and Jay Z was allowed to become Jay Z." (*New York Times*, 2013)



3 Ludwig van Beethoven

Kanye says: "I am flawed as a human being, but my music is perfect... You could go back to Beethoven and sh*t, but as far as this lifetime, though, this is all you got." (*onstage in Atlantic City*, 2012)



4 Michael Jackson

Kanye says: "I would not be Kanye West if it wasn't for Michael Jackson. But I was able to ascend to massive heights. And I've got to a point that Michael Jackson did not break down. I have reached the glass ceiling." (*Radio 1*, 2013)



5 Will Ferrell in *Elf*

Kanye says: "A lot of times I feel like Will Ferrell in the movie *Elf*. You know, this big guy that wants to [join in] and his hands are a little bit too big..." (*Vanity Fair*, 2015)



6 Adolf Hitler

Kanye says: "I walk through the hotel and I walk down the street and people look at me like I'm f***ing insane, like I'm Hitler. One day the light will shine through and one day people will understand everything I ever did." (*onstage at The Big Chill Festival*, 2011)



7 William Shakespeare

Kanye says: "I am Warhol! I am the number one most impactful artist of our generation. I am Shakespeare in the flesh. Walt Disney, Nike, Google." (*Shade 45 Sirius XM*, 2013)



8 Barack Obama

Kanye says: "No one is looking at what [Barack Obama] is wearing. Michelle Obama cannot Instagram a pic like what my girl Instagrammed the other day." (*On air with Ryan Seacrest*, 2013)



9 Vanellope von Schweetz

Kanye says: "Have y'all ever seen *Wreck-It Ralph*? You remember how that girl in there – the people that was racing? She was the glitch. You're telling me they don't look at me like the motherf***ing glitch?" (*Radio 1*, 2013)



10 God

Kanye says: "When someone comes along and says something like, 'I am a God,' everybody says, 'Who does he think he is?' I just told you who I thought I was. A God. I just told you. That's who I think I am." (*Radio 1*, 2013)

Go to NME.com for loads more lists

Last W33K IN NUMBERS



£19k

The amount One Direction earned every day last year. Each. Even Louis, and he's basically just the spare one.



36

Years passed since Patti Smith had a bag of sentimentally-important possessions stolen, which were returned last week.



\$150m

The amount that flop Peter Pan prequel *Pan* is projected to lose the Warner Bros movie studio.



6

The number of *Die Hard* films that will exist, now that a prequel has been announced.

A venue less ordinary

On October 24, The Ordinary Boys play The Joiners Arms in Southampton for Jack Rocks

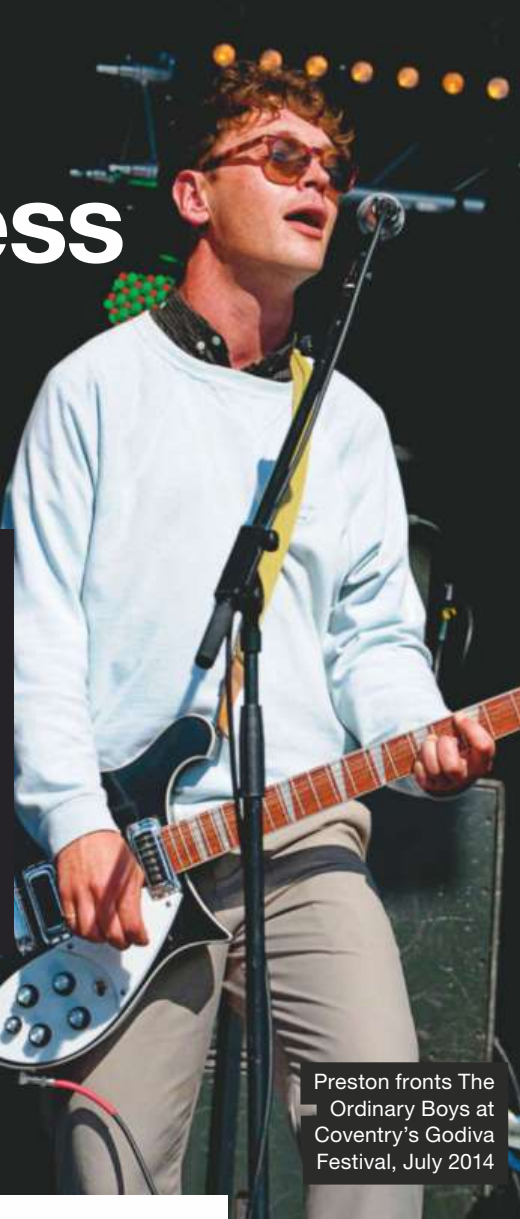
A PREVIOUS HOLDER of NME's Britain's Best Small Venue title, Southampton's Joiners Arms is also one of Ordinary Boys frontman Preston's "favourite places to play". Here he explains why.

"It's got a DIY feel"

Preston: "We played there in '97 or '98 – I guess I must have been 14 – it was our first ever tour. I've got a photo of us sat outside looking properly pop punk with blue hair and wearing Sick Of It All T-shirts. It's still got that same feeling I remember from the DIY punk scene in Brighton. Everyone's so nice there. It's so welcoming and warm."

NME
BRITAIN'S
BEST
SMALL
VENUE

IN ASSOCIATION WITH
JACK DANIEL'S



Preston fronts The Ordinary Boys at Coventry's Godiva Festival, July 2014

"We played there on our greatest tour"

Preston: "We went there on our first big Ordinary Boys tour, with Kaiser Chiefs and The Cribs supporting us. That was the greatest tour of all time – it was so much fun. We played there last year and saw that there's still a sticker from our first single, 'Maybe Someday', stuck on the wall."

"It's all about little punk gigs"

Preston: "We're going to be reliving our youth this month and going back to places we did on our first tour, when it was the most fun. All that stuff with me being on TV [Preston was on *Celebrity Big Brother* in 2006] propelled us into venues that didn't suit us. This is a chance for us to go back and remind everyone that when we play little punk gigs we are really good."

Like the sound of Jack Rocks? Visit NME.com/jackrocks to see content from some of the best Jack Rocks gigs this year.

JACK DANIEL'S
JACK ROCKS



Colin Farrell

Star of this year's weirdest comedy, *The Lobster*

What attracted you to this film set in a near-future where single people have 45 days to find a partner or are turned into animals? "Before I'd even read the script, I was attracted to the notion of this film because I'd seen *Dogtooth*, one of [Greek director] Yorgos Lanthimos' previous films, and I loved it. Then I read the script and it was so unusual. There was such an awkwardness and lack of convention. It was funny and moving and like nothing I'd ever read."

When you were shooting the film, did Lanthimos give you any idea what it might end up looking like?

"When I read the script I couldn't imagine how this world could be rendered in a believable way. Then when I saw the film for the first time, even though I knew the script inside out, I was still shocked by the audacity of it."

Will you ever make a weirder film?

"I don't think so. While it's a different style and sensibility, this film is as unusual to me as a piece of work by David Lynch or Charlie Kaufman. Anything more unusual than this would run the risk of being unusual for the sake of it. So no, I can't imagine doing anything weirder."

The Lobster is in cinemas now

Winner of NME's Best Small Venue in 2013



Your week in Jack Rocks shows

The Milk

The Milk @ The Boileroom, Guildford – October 31

WHO: London-based four-piece specialising in R&B sounds.
WHY: To get in touch with your soulful side.

Flesh @ The Night & Day Café, Manchester – October 31

WHO: Local boys who play grunge by way of Britpop.
WHY: To support your local scene.

Trampoline @ The Black Heart, London – November 3

WHO: Leather- and denim-clad indie upstarts.
WHY: Because rock'n'roll will never die.



THINGS 007[™] LIKES

JAMES BOND'S OBJECTS OF DESIRE



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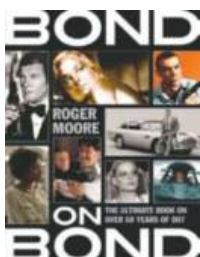
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Ring leader

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You know his name

Bond On Bond is the perfect 007 book, in which Roger Moore wittily bangs on about 50 years of JB. **£19.99** hmv.com



Specs-tre

Tom Ford is the man who suits up Bond these days. He also supplies these cool shades. **£239** johnlewis.com



Boy racer

Recreate the hair-raising car chases of the new film with this Scalextric set. **£129.99** scalextric.com



A view to a kill

With a 23MP camera and 4k video-tech, the Sony Xperia Z5 is good enough for any spy work. **£9 (with contract)** vodafone.co.uk



Shaken, not stirred

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For your nose only

What does 007 smell like precisely? Vetiver and bergamot, apparently. **£25** theperfumeshop.com



For the record

Stop getting Bond wrong with this 'Best Of ...' CD, a chronological run-down of 007's themes. **£19.99** hmv.com



Woman with the golden gun

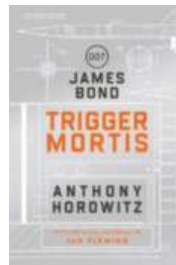
Guns are bad, obviously. Guns on jewellery are fine. This one is both stylish and non-lethal. **£66.70** revolveclothing.com

Find more things we like at NME.com



Spy games

There's no Scotty dog in the Bond edition of Monopoly, but you do get a submarine car.
£32.99 amazon.co.uk



Under cover

Trigger Mortis reunites Bond with Pussy Galore in the latest 007 novel by Anthony Horowitz.
£13.99 waterstones.com



Bond's top tune

Sam Smith's best Bassey impression for *Spectre* slots into the Bond canon with panache.
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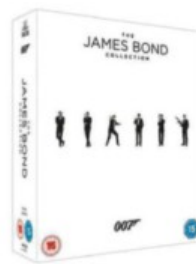
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What's ON your Headphones?

THIS WEEK

Southampton

"It's a really vibrant city – there's lots to do for students"



Gilly Marchini >
18, student

Listening to:
NEWTON FAULKNER
I Need Something
"I needed something to chill to and he's really relaxing."

Wearing: Dunnes top, Primark jeans, Dr Martens shoes.
Best thing about Southampton: "It's a really vibrant city – there's lots to do for students. I'm off to a brass band meeting now, then going for ice cream at Sprinkles!"

George Wardley >
21, student and bassist in Bel Esprit

Listening to:
EZRA FURMAN
Tip Of A Match
"He's got very catchy hooks and riffs."

Wearing: All clothes River Island, Topman trainers.
Best thing about Southampton:
"The football team."



< Rosie Wood
21, freelance photographer

Listening to:
DISCLOSURE FEAT. LION BABE
Hourglass
"I love their new album, and I've got tickets to see them at Alexandra Palace in December!"

Wearing: Whistles shirt, & Other Stories jumper, Topshop trousers, Ray Ban sunglasses.
Best thing about Southampton:
"My family live here and it's a great getaway from London."

MATT RICHARDSON

Stefan Adamson >
25, musician

Listening to:
ERIC ROBERSON
At The Same Time
"All of my songs are on shuffle, but I really like his music."

Wearing: Burton jacket, Matalan hoodie, T-shirt stolen from his brother, H&M joggers, Reebok trainers.
Best thing about Southampton: "It's quiet. It's got a good nightlife, but it's not busy all the time."

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SAM SMITH

THE WORLD
IS NOT ENOUGH

PHOTOGRAPHY: RANKIN

Sam Smith turned heartache into a goldmine with his lovelorn 2014 debut 'In The Lonely Hour'. Now, with his Bond theme the first to top the UK charts, **Barry Nicolson** meets a man pondering how to move on from instant mega-stardom



YOU CAN TELL A LOT about a person from their favourite Bond. Are you a Connery classicist or a Lazenby hipster? Do you go for the arched-eyebrow absurdity of Moore, or Dalton's grittier, more grounded entries? Until recently, Sam Smith was a Daniel Craig modernist: "He was my favourite initially, because I'm 23 years old. I hadn't seen all the old movies, and I loved how modern his take on Bond was," he says over the phone from Raleigh, North Carolina, where he's playing the penultimate date of his current US tour. "But when I went back and watched them all, I realised that it's Connery and Moore who I love the most. I love how classy and clean-cut they are. I think I'd like the next Bond to be more of a return to that."

As a pop star who extols the virtues of doing things the old-fashioned way – "standing onstage in a suit and singing", as he puts it – Smith's preference for the elegant, urbane 007s of the 1960s, '70s and '80s isn't surprising; indeed, the sweeping, John Barry-esque strings and dramatic delivery of 'Writing's On The Wall', the theme song he's written for *Spectre*, feel like a deliberate throwback to that era. Not for nothing was Smith always the bookies' favourite to land the gig.

"In my first meeting with Sam [Mendes, director] and Barbara [Broccoli, producer], my pitch was that I wanted to create something genuinely timeless and classy," he explains of the track, which made history this month by being the first Bond theme to go to Number One. "Sam was talking about how a lot of Bond songs are love songs, and how love is an underlying theme in all the films. I write love songs – that's all I do! – and I felt that was something which could play to my strengths. So that's what I set out to create, an epic love song."

Becoming the first British male solo artist in 50 years to front a Bond theme caps a remarkable couple of years for Smith, in which he's gone from guest-spots with Disclosure and Naughty Boy to being a pop phenomenon in his

own right. 'In The Lonely Hour' has sold 8.5m copies worldwide (2m in the US alone), spawning four Number One singles, four Grammys and three Brit awards.

Bond, however, "has been a whole different monster. Before my album came out, I wasn't bothered by what anybody else thought of it. This was *my* album and I was so proud of it, and no bad reviews were ever going to get to me, but with a Bond theme, you're being compared to some of the greatest songs in the history of music." Smith is a sensitive sort who doesn't read his own reviews – "I genuinely believe, especially in England, that people are just waiting to give me bad ones," he says – but while critical consensus has been divided, "The general response to the song has been amazing,

and to get to Number One was just incredible. You're never going to please everyone and not everyone's going to love it, but I'm so happy with it. I feel like I've done a good job."

Smith intended

the mournful tone of 'Writing's On The Wall' to reflect what Bond goes through in the movie: "You see him bleed, you see him battered and bruised, and I wanted the track to have that kind of vulnerability," he says. Vulnerability is his *forte*, after all: Smith is the guy who could sell heartache to the heartless, and occasionally it does feel that clinical. He talks about "wanting my music to appeal to everyone", and of getting 'In The Lonely Hour' into "every

"If I wasn't so self-conscious I'd be a bit of a pr*ck"

single person's lap" – impulses that were perhaps too evident on the album itself.

Yet Smith is comfortable being typecast as Mr Misery: "I don't have any problem with being the guy whose album people put on when they're feeling

sad," he says. "In three years' time, that might completely change, but right now, I don't mind being the go-to CD when you're having a glass of wine and feeling a bit sorry for yourself. I like that my music can be this kind of crutch for people."

Melancholy, he continues, is second nature to him. "I've had an amazing life, but I think I was born with a little bit of sadness in me. I've always been attracted to those things, whether it's sad movies, sad music... when you're sad, you feel everything in a greater way than you do when you're happy. I'm a vulnerable, sensitive person. I overthink everything. I'm insanely self-conscious about my body, about my music, about everything in my life, and that self-consciousness is what's keeping my feet on the ground at the moment. If I didn't have it, I'd become a bit of a pr*ck. I'm thankful for my sadness."

A lot of that sadness stemmed from loneliness. Smith grew up in the tiny Cambridgeshire village of Great Chishill, where he had an "amazing" childhood with a loving, supportive (and well-off) family, "But I was out in the middle of nowhere, where there were no

CARSTEN WINDHORST

Sam Smith in numbers

8.5m

Copies of 'In The Lonely Hour' sold worldwide to date

69

Weeks that it spent in the UK Top 10 (the longest for a debut album ever)

89

Countries in which 'In The Lonely Hour' hit Number One on iTunes

23

Bond themes that didn't go to Number One, before 'Writing's On The Wall' nailed it

4

Grammy Awards

3

Brit Awards

6

UK Number Ones

1.3bn

Number of views on his Vevo channel

'Writing's On The Wall' video shoot, Rome



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A MAN SHAVES IN THE MORNING
IS WELL WORTH RECORDING.

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Performing with Disclosure, Las Vegas, Sept 2015

Onstage at Rock In Rio, Rio de Janeiro, Sept 2015



“I want being gay to be treated as the new normal”

other gay people, and not a lot of people with the same kind of mind that I had.” He came out when he was 10 years old – a fact he made public shortly before the release of ‘In The Lonely Hour’ – but even now, he says he’s only had one real relationship, with the American model Jonathan Zeisel, which ended earlier this year. (Smith has “commitment issues” he’s trying to work out.)

Then of course there’s the not-quite relationship that spawned ‘In The Lonely Hour’. During his fourth and final acceptance speech at the Grammys in February, Smith thanked “the man who this record is about”, a casual remark of huge significance, considering the occasion. “I read an article saying I was one of the first openly gay men to do that on TV,” he says proudly. “I thought it was an impactful thing to do: to treat being gay as the new normal, on live TV in front of millions and millions of people across America. I’m trying to make it a non-issue, even though I’m fully aware that it is one.”

His determination to do that extends to his lyrics, all of which are written to be gender-neutral; even his cover of Whitney Houston’s ‘How Will I Know’ was given the same treatment. Last year, Smith said he wasn’t trying to be a spokesperson for the gay community, though he got “angry and upset” when those words were misconstrued as a reluctance to talk publicly about the issues facing them.

“I’m a gay man who came out when I was 10 years old, and there’s nothing in my life that I’m prouder of,” he says. “What I was trying to say was that I didn’t want the album to appeal to just one community, I wanted it to appeal to all of them. I wanted anyone, gay or straight, to be able to relate to me singing about men,

like I was able to relate to Stevie Wonder or John Legend singing about girls. I want to be a spokesperson. I want to be a figure in the gay community, who speaks for gay men. I sell records in countries where gay men get killed and that’s a big thing for me, because maybe one person in that country will pick up my album, realise it’s by a gay artist, and it might change their opinion.”

To that end, he says, “I have a few projects in the works that are about trying to attack problems happening in certain countries, but I’m very aware that I’m young, and I don’t know everything. I want to do more research, to travel to certain places so that I know what I’m talking about, and then start raising money so I can be a spokesperson in the way that I want to be.”

Since Daniel Craig would “rather slash [his] wrists” than return to the Bond franchise and *Spectre* looks like being the send-off for his hyper-masculine iteration of the character, does Smith think the world is ready for a black Bond, or a gay Bond, or any sort of Bond who isn’t a straight white male?

“A black Bond would be incredible,” he replies. “I’m not sure if the world is ready for a gay Bond, but I’m ready for it!”

Smith plans to take some time off when his tour ends in December, so the

follow-up to ‘In The Lonely Hour’ isn’t due any time soon, but it’s slowly taking shape – he has the album’s title and visual concepts in place, as well as three new songs slated for inclusion. “The most beautiful thing about what I’m doing now is that I’m writing when I’m feeling,” he explains. “When I wrote ‘In The Lonely Hour’, I was put in the studio for a year-and-a-half with this mission to write a record, but with this album, things are happening to me, and the day after they end or begin, I’m writing music. Every feeling and every emotion is raw.”

One of the new songs – possibly ‘Scars’, which deals with the subject of his parents’ divorce – he describes as “the saddest thing I’ve ever written”. Another is about the pressure he feels to conform to an industry standard of what pop stars, male and female, should look like.

Smith has struggled with negative body image since childhood, and even though he’s shed almost 50lb in weight over the past year, “I still feel pressured to look a certain way. For women, the pressure in this industry is horrendous and it’s got to stop. But it’s the same for guys, even though they won’t speak about it. I want to be a voice for that: just because I’ve lost weight doesn’t mean that I’m happy and content with my body. Because of the media, and because of what I feel I should look like, it’s always going to be a battle in my head.”

He’ll later call that song “the happiest I’ve ever written”, before immediately qualifying the statement: “Well, at least it’s not *too* sad.” Either way, he says, “My first album was called ‘In The Lonely Hour’, so people shouldn’t be expecting anything too joyous from the next one. When I write sad songs, I feel like I’m sewing up a scar in me, and the outcome always feels so much better than when I write happy ones.”

It might seem as if everyone in the world knows Sam Smith’s name, but he remains the golden-voiced lonely man of pop. It’s a role that fits him like a well-tailored tuxedo.

International man of mystery

How Smith tried to disguise the fact he’d done the Bond theme

AUGUST 8, 2014

The Sun claims Smith is in talks to record the next Bond theme.

AUGUST 13, 2014

Smith tells *NME*: “I have no idea what that was about and I know as much as you do.”

DECEMBER 4, 2014

Bookies make Smith favourite to do the theme.

JULY 3, 2015

Smith tells Capital FM: “I heard Ellie Goulding was going to do it.”

JULY 6, 2015

More blanket denial: “It’s the funniest thing just to sit back and watch everyone confirming something I know nothing about,” he tells Absolute Radio.

JULY 28, 2015

Ellie Goulding Instagrams a picture of herself at Abbey Road, where every Bond theme has been recorded. Is she a decoy?

SEPTEMBER 3, 2015

Another denial from Smith, this time to BBC’s Jo Whaley.

SEPTEMBER 8, 2015

Smith is revealed as the man behind the new Bond theme. Our national security is safe with this one.

NME



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Go Further

Courting fame

Australian singer-songwriter Courtney Barnett is a slacker hero with a secret — she's an overachiever.

Kim Hillyard talks to her about recording with Jack White, her 24/7 schedule and becoming a role model

Courtney Barnett
in Austin, Texas,
April 2015





COURTNEY BARNETT IS DESCRIBING her recent visit to ex-White Stripe Jack White's studio in Nashville in great detail. "There was heaps of wacky sh*t in there," says the 27-year-old. "Cool vintage amps. Pedals. A nice old piano... it was full of real nerdy stuff. And Jack kept offering us food. But we were too excited to eat."

The invitation from White to follow in the footsteps of Neil Young, Loretta Lynn and Willie Nelson and record at his Third Man Records HQ came in June, three months after the release of Barnett's debut album, *'Sometimes I Sit And Think, And Sometimes I Just Sit'*.

A short time later she was recording the 'Blue Series' 7-inch. Pressed to vinyl and released by Third Man last week, it features a bold sequel to one of her own tracks, 'Boxing Day Blues - Revisited', and a hazy, heartfelt cover of 'Shivers' by Aussie songwriter Rowland S Howard.

"I only decided what songs to do that morning 'cos I always put sh*t like that off," says Barnett. "But it was amazing! We had whiskey when we finished."

Courtney Barnett's angsty cool is a refreshing dose of reality in 2015. Through her low-slung slacker-pop, she champions life's banalities and celebrates boredom in a world of 24/7 notifications. It's a bittersweet philosophy, and hordes of fans have climbed on board.

"Put me on a pedestal, I'll only disappoint you," she sang on this year's single 'Pedestrian At Best'. Jack White's not the only person ignoring her advice. She admits to having received some pretty intense fanmail. "People tell me stories," she says. "Heaps of really deep, emotional, personal ones." Following the release of *'Sometimes I Sit And Think...'*, she slayed US TV audiences with her appearance on Jimmy Fallon's *Tonight Show*, played Glastonbury's Pyramid Stage, busked in London for her 'Nobody Really Cares...' video, covered Patti Smith's 'Horses' onstage in Melbourne and supported Blur on their American Tour. It's all happening hard and fast.

When we speak she's crashed out at her kitchen table in Melbourne. It's 10.45pm and she's only just having dinner ("miso soup and veggies"). How is she handling the heavy schedule?

"The biggest change is that I've got a lot more frequent-flyer points! It's funny, by avoiding a nine-to-five lifestyle, I've created a 24/7 one instead. But it's cool. I used to hate working jobs that meant nothing and were just about earning enough to live. I wanted to create my own job where I could do what I wanted. That's kinda what I did."

Over the past few weeks she's been at home, working out where to go next. To help suss it all out she's been

Courtney's cuts

Barnett's small but perfectly formed discography



The Double EP: A Sea Of Split Peas 2014

★★★★☆

What we said:

"Slouching out of a Melbourne bedsit, Barnett's two EPs, 'How To Carve A Carrot Into A Rose' and 2012's 'I've Got A Friend Called Emily Ferris', establish her as a prodigiously talented songwriter."



Sometimes I Sit And Think, And Sometimes I Just Sit 2015

★★★★☆

What we said: "On the follow-up to 'A Sea Of Split Peas', she's still trying to figure it all out, spooling stream-of-consciousness thoughts about all of life's mundanities. She might not want a pedestal, but there aren't many songwriters who'd make better use of it."

"I wanted to create my own job where I could do what I wanted. That's kinda what I did"

sorting through her journals and "collecting all the good bits of songs and writing new ones". About what, she won't say. The political situation in Australia, perhaps? (At the end of September, the country switched their Prime Minister in a snap party ballot.) "Oh come on! Our government is the most confused f***ing school of idiots trying to run a country. It's terrifying! Stuff like marriage equality is still seen as a crazy idea to some people, you know? I don't have faith in any of those people to do the right thing."

So Barnett's taking matters into her own hands. Of everything coming her way, it's an upcoming talk at a rock camp for girls that she's most excited about. "You give 'em guitars and teach 'em how to write a song," she says. What will she tell them? "I guess, just... write what you know."

For all the whisky quaffing in Nashville, Barnett really is most content when, well, sitting and thinking. "When I was a teenager I was nerdy and goody-goody. I read a lot. Did all my homework. Went to the library every day after school. Played a lot of guitar. I had like, friends. But I preferred to hang out by myself."

Years later she's still on the outside looking in, more anxious about "what to order at a restaurant" than making her second album. "I'm just happy to not stress about that side of stuff," she shrugs. "There's always something else going on. People don't care that much."

It's this kind of perspective that draws you to Courtney Barnett. Unlike the rock gods of yore, she offers up an escapism that is actually attainable. For proof, just ask her where she sees herself in 20 years' time. "Oh, I don't f***ing know!" she replies, pausing for thought. "Hopefully I'll have grey hair and be living somewhere with a cat."

Famous fans

JAMIE T

"She keeps her songs simple, but when you dig a bit deeper there's a lot of ideas," said Jamie T, citing Barnett as a major influence on his recent album *'Carry On The Grudge'*.

KIM DEAL

The Breeders' leader had a heart-to-heart with Barnett in a joint interview for the Talkhouse Music podcast. "My last drink was in 2002," Deal told her. "That sounds sensible," Barnett replied.

JACK WHITE

The ex-White Stripe invited Barnett to Nashville, produced her new single 'Shivers' and released it on his label. "Damn did she deliver," he posted on his site.



The maddest plotlines from 20 years of *Hollyoaks*

Channel 4's long-running soap has never let plausibility get in the way of entertaining stories. Gary Ryan recalls the best



1995



2015

1997

Jambo's plastic cow goes missing

Jambo was the kind of guy who drove a three-wheeled orange car with mouse ears and a tail, would climb through windows instead of opening doors and had a 'pet' plastic cow named Margaret, which tragically went missing.

What happened next: *Hollyoaks* creator Phil Redmond later admitted this plot development covered up the fact that the cow had been stolen from the set. Will Mellor, who played Jambo, left in 1998 to become an actor.

1999

Hollyoaks invents waterboarding

Villainous Rob Hawthorne kidnapped Lucy, whisked her away to a nautical test centre and tried to drown her in a water tank. As her friends Lewis, Tony and Ruth attempted to rescue her, he tortured them by altering the depth and temperature of the water, like a crap underwater *Saw* spin-off.

What happened next: They made it to an escape hatch and drifted ashore. This wouldn't be the first time some *Hollyoaks* actors found themselves washed up.



2003

Bombhead dines with his dead mum

When Bombhead's mother died, he suffered a mental breakdown and decided to live with her decomposing corpse, even cooking her the odd meal now and then. His only comfort was talking to the ghost of father figure, Gordon 'Mr C' Cunningham.

What happened next: The festering remains were discovered by Stacey, who accidentally sat on them during an illicit tryst with Lee. Not the sexiest ménage à trois.

2008

Newt's imaginary friend

Bad boy Eli cajoled eyeliner-wearing emo kid Newt into trying to kill his foster father.

What happened next: In a highly-praised storyline it was revealed that Eli was a figment of Newt's imagination and a product of his schizophrenia.



2009

Carmel finds Jesus in a potato...

Amazingly, this storyline about Carmel McQueen discovering the face of Jesus in a spud dragged on for more than one episode.

What happened next: Fans complained it was unbelievable. As if any of the *Hollyoaks* cast eat carbs.



2009

Lydia's parachute sabotage backfires

How best to resolve a lesbian love triangle? Have a character cut her rival's parachute cord before a skydive, as Lydia did to Zoe in *Hollyoaks Later*.

What happened next: The cords got mixed up, and Lydia's object-of-desire Sarah accidentally plunged to oblivion instead.



2013

Sienna's pretend pregnancy

Sienna faked being up the duff in order to ward off love rival Nancy.

What happened next: Sienna's lie was exposed when her ripped top revealed the prosthetic baby bump. She then went on the run, taking her nephew Charlie and Nancy's baby son Oscar with her. Fact: you have more chance of being kidnapped in *Hollyoaks* than you do in Colombia.

2011

Serial Silas' Catwoman calamity

Throughout 2011, serial killer Silas posed a greater threat to the female cast of *Hollyoaks* than dodgy spray tans.

What happened next:

His killing spree came to an end on Halloween, when he accidentally killed his own daughter due to a Catwoman costume mix-up.



Trainee nun seduces priest

Haunted by visions of her dead husband, Carmel trained to become a nun – but ended up falling for a good-looking priest.

What happened next:

She helped him raise money for an African orphanage by organising a naked calendar. Her heart, like her skin, was gold.

2012

Wedding crashers

Hollyoaks rule: every wedding must end in tragedy. In this annual cast clear-out, a minibus bulldozed into the double-ceremony of Tony, Cindy, Doug and Ste.

What happened next: The minibus exploded in a fireball, claiming the lives of four characters.



...then sings with Bonnie Tyler – in a dream

In the post-watershed spin-off *Hollyoaks Later*, Carmel was thrown into prison after being mistaken for a prostitute. Cue a feverish, *Inception*-like dream sequence in which she duetted with growling Welsh singer Bonnie Tyler on 'Holding Out For A Hero'.

What happened next: Carmel woke up.



2015

The 'Gloved Hand Killer'

Hollyoaks' latest absurd storyline concerns a mysterious killer wearing a blue surgical glove who's been seen administering lethal injections around Dee Valley Hospital. Well,

it's one way to reduce NHS waiting lists.

What happens next: The identity of the assailant will be revealed during the soap's 20th anniversary shows this week.





THREE FIRES ALMOST DESTROYED LYNCHBURG. THIS ONE SAVED IT.

In 1883, 1892 and again in 1913, wildfire nearly swallowed the town. But against all likelihood, the Jack Daniel Distillery remained relatively unscathed. Our neighbors today are glad that the fire we use at the distillery is of the controlled variety. To start it, our rickmasters stack sugar maple slats into a ten-foot-high pile called a rick. Then they set the wood ablaze, managing the burn at the perfect temperature to create the charcoal we use to mellow our whiskey drop by drop. Since 1866, every smooth sip has started here. And if it hasn't, well, it simply isn't Jack Daniel's.



JACK DANIEL'S  TENNESSEE WHISKEY

Don't get burned. Drink responsibly.

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for the facts drinkaware.co.uk

RADAR

MUSIC, FILM, TV AND MORE – THIS WEEK'S ESSENTIAL NEW RELEASES

Best NEW tracks

And when to drop them

Best for serenading your beau

RAURY

Demo 1: The Sea

Atlanta boy Raury Alexander Tullis cares not for the confines of genre. Previous singles 'Devil's Whisper' and 'Forbidden Knowledge' merged hip-hop, folk and more. 'Demo 1: The Sea' adds an acoustic string to his bow.

Best for inducing hypnosis

BEACH HOUSE

Majorette

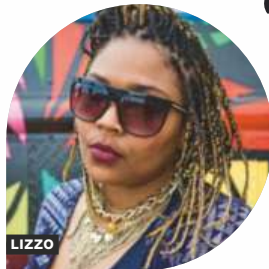
One of three tracks available from the Baltimore duo's second album this year, and its hazy vocals and lilting melody are very much 'classic Beach House'. Key word: woozy.

Best for starting circle pits

METZ

Eraser

The Toronto punks' first new tune since this year's 'II' is little more than a bratty chant of its title over brutal guitar squalls and relentless drum pounds. Direct and uncompromising.



LIZZO

Best for easing hangovers

LIZZO

Humanize

Built around a sparkling, honey-smooth vocal and deep bass beat, rapper Lizzo reinvents herself as a seductive soul siren. An unexpected curveball.

Best for a pub conga

DJANGO DJANGO

Hold The Line

Falsetto harmonies, carnival drumbeats and plinky plonky keyboards combine into something a bit like Hot Chip throwing a knees-up down your local.

Best for Saturday night pre-drinks

ALL TVVINS

Darkest Ocean

"Do yourself a f***ing favour/ Throw yourself a rope", sing the Irish duo over synths that we'll dub 'ravey Bastille'.

Best for shaking your tail feather

SILICON

Cellphone (Unknown Mortal Orchestra Rework)

UMO man Ruban Nielson reworks a track by brother Kody's band Silicon, adding fluttering falsetto vocals to hip-shuddering basslines.

Best for reliving your childhood

JESSIE WARE

A Dream Is A Wish Your Heart Makes

Jessie delivers fairytale sweetness on this cover of the *Cinderella* classic, recorded as part of a Disney celebration CD.



CHANCE THE RAPPER

Best for getting sentimental

CHANCE THE RAPPER

Family Matters

Chance's adaptation of Kanye's 2004 track 'Family Business' strips the original back into something soft and intimate.



JENNYLEE

Best for wintry walks

JENNYLEE

Never

The first track from Warpaint bassist Jenny Lee Lindberg's solo album is a heady blend of Joy Division-ey repetition and misty vocals.

For more new music, go to NME.com

ALBUM OF THE WEEK

Weird and wonderful

Californian kook Joanna Newsom's new album is a marvel of country, pop and lyrical oddity

JOANNA NEWSOM

Divers



HARPS FOLK POP

SINCE HER enduringly lovely third album, 2010's 'Have One On Me', Joanna Newsom has turned her oddball cult into an empire. Between fancy fashion shoots, starring as *Sortilège*, the earthy narrator of noir flick *Inherent Vice* and marrying comedian Andy Samberg, the harpist – treasured for her knotty compositions, wicked wordplay and quizzical, pipsqueak vocals – has emerged as indie's least-



likely infiltrator of pop culture.

So it's reassuring that, five years on, the 33-year-old is back with something utterly predictable: yet another masterpiece. 'Divers', her unusually tight fourth album, is full of lofty concepts ('Waltz Of The 101st Lightborne' sees time-travelling soldiers wage a futile war on their own ghosts) but her crafty tales, signposted by ornate folk arrangements, rarely outpace your imagination.

On 'Leaving The City' – all pirouetting harps and Celtic cacophony – sneaky rhymes fidget like anxious thoughts: "*The bridle bends in idle hands/And slows our canter to a trot/We mean to stop, in increments, but can't commit/We post and sit, in impotence*". The album's a puny 50 minutes compared to its two-hour predecessor, but you'll disappear down its lyrical rabbit holes for hours.

The music can be cinematic, as on the epic 'Anecdotes', or spartan, like piano ballad 'The Things I Say'. One constant is Newsom's inclination towards the warped country of 'Hejira'-era Joni Mitchell and the wild Greenwich

Village folk of Karen Dalton, yet she's never corny. But then, Newsom has never really been one for tradition. In interviews since getting hitched in September 2013, she's observed that it's "inviting death into your life... because there's someone you can't bear to lose". 'Divers', then, is no honeymoon-period frolic.

Revisiting a theme that's infiltrated her every record since 2004 debut 'The Milk-Eyed Mender', prog-country hybrid 'Goose Eggs' knots together allusions to wilting attraction and

infertility: "*The old veil of desire/ Like the vessels that we fired/ Fell thin as eggshells*". But when Newsom is more playful, a creative dam bursts, and you're sent reeling. On 'Anecdotes', she describes a bird, startled mid-flight by gunfire, as a "*hotdogging loon*". It's a puzzler of a detail, but it's so strangely evocative you can't help but marvel along with her. **Jazz Monroe**



BON IVER,
'*Bon Iver*' (2011)

On his second album, Justin Vernon expanded

his elegant outcast folk to soundtrack broken marriages, battle scenes and dumped hipsters walking in the snow.



KATE BUSH,
'*Aerial*' (2005)

Even by the standards of the 'Babooshka'

singer, this double comeback album was barmy and inventive beyond her weirdest and wildest dreams.

Jo of all trades

How Newsom infiltrated pop culture



FILMS

Last year, Joanna narrated and made a stylish cameo in Paul Thomas Anderson's stoner flight of fancy *Inherent Vice* (starring Joaquin Phoenix).

FASHION

A cursory Tumblr search reveals that Joanna is a *big deal* in fashion. She's modelled alongside J-Law for *W*, and adorned the cover of *Paper* magazine.

THE SIMPSONS

Simpsons creator and big Newsom fan Matt Groening drew the singer as a character in 2010. Her response? "Holy sh*t! I'm a Simpson! I made it!"



TV

Skewering her 'privileged boho faerie' reputation on satirical US show *Portlandia*, Newsom leads a pagan chant, then crams her harp into a hatchback.



Sheer madness

The numbers behind Ed Sheeran's ongoing 'x' tour are truly ridiculous

JUMPERS FOR GOALPOSTS

12A Ed Sheeran, Elton John

LIVE TOUR MASSIVE NUMBERS

SINCE IT KICKED OFF LAST August, Ed Sheeran's 'x' tour has been attended by more than two million people. His trio of July gigs at Wembley – where he lit the stadium's arch in neon green – are the focus of the film *Jumpers For Goalposts*, out this weekend.

179 Shows on the 'x' tour, which ends in December after crossing five continents via 124 cities. By comparison, Taylor Swift played 85 shows across four continents in 55 cities on her '1989' World Tour. Pathetic.

90 Percentage of 'x' tour dates that have sold out.

2 The number of Elton John duets at Wembley: Elt song 'Don't Go Breaking My Heart' and Sheeran's 'April Love'.



2.53m*

People who will have seen the Framlingham lad live by the tour's end. That's more than the population of Slovenia. *approximately

£11.64m

Money made from 240,000 fans buying tickets for the Wembley shows, which were priced between £45-52.

6,000 Number of staff employed for the Wembley shows. If the £11.64m made from ticket sales was divided evenly among them, they'd take home £2,000 each.

0 Actual jumpers referenced in the film. It's called *Jumpers For Goalposts*, says Ed, "because we keep moving them". Bit smug. **Larry Bartleet**

Tatt's great
Ed on getting a giant lion inked on his chest for Wembley

"Originally I was going to get the floor plan tattooed on my side, but that seemed a bit ridiculous." Yeah, the lion is way better...

RADAR

Also out this week



VANGOFFEY
Take Your Jacket Off And Get Into It

★★★★☆

Ex-Supergrass drummer Danny Goffey's solo debut lobs lark-pop bombs willy-nilly, but bristles with his old band's spirit no matter how daft it gets.



LUSTS
Illuminations

★★★★☆

Channelling the dark-hearted pop of The Cure and Echo And The Bunnymen, Leicester brothers Lusts (Andy and James Stone) arrive with a gently psychedelic debut perfect for moping around to.



5 SECONDS OF SUMMER
Sounds Good Feels Good

★★☆☆☆

The Sydney quartet, signed after millions of YouTube views, release their second album of catchy pop-punk, co-written with members of Good Charlotte and All Time Low.



PURE BATHING CULTURE
Pray For Rain

★★★★☆

Two years after sleek debut 'Moon Tides', Daniel Hindman and Sarah Versprille return with harsher textures, though pop remains at the band's core. Haim fans will approve.



FUZZ
//

★★★★☆

All the consistency you'd expect from Californian lo-fi overlord Ty Segall. This double album – his second with the psych side-project – is so relentless that its heft can overpower. It still rules though.

Read the full reviews of these and many more albums on NME.com

WORDS: CIAN TRAYNOR, MARK BEAUMONT, NICK LEVINE PHOTOS: ANNABEL MEHRAN, BEN WATTS

Russell Brand in
A Second Coming

Brand awareness

The story of the comedian's path to politics
portrays a confused man at odds with himself

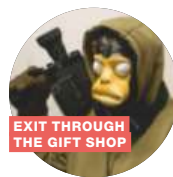
BRAND: A SECOND COMING

15 Russell Brand, Noel
Gallagher, Katy Perry



DOCUMENTARY POLITICS REVOLUTION

FOR FANS OF



EXIT THROUGH
THE GIFT SHOP



GET HIM
TO THE GREEK

WHATEVER YOU THINK OF Russell Brand – revolutionary, confusing egotist or somewhere in between – there is usually something at the centre of whatever he's saying that is worth considering, or at least questioning. What's not always

clear is why he's saying it or what he hopes it will achieve, which is largely what this film wants to find. Who is Russell Brand and what does he want?

Director Ondi Timoner spends a lot of time telling Brand's life-story, taking him back to his hometown in Essex, talking to his parents, tracking his sex and drugs years. All this feels like PR fluff, allowing Brand to define his own history

unchallenged, with talking-head interjections from people who like him (including a sarcastic Noel Gallagher and Katy Perry who says she has "all the real power because I control the pussy"). It's only when Brand decides he's to be the figurehead of political change that things get interesting, because we get to see how his thought process works in real time.

At this stage Timoner, who joined the project as director when much of the earlier footage was already shot, just watches Brand without prejudice. She allows him his moments of grandstanding but doesn't look away when he makes a fool of himself, such as when he lays out his belief in a world free of material greed, pausing briefly to point out his new gold gun lamp. He's full of these contradictions, seeming well-intentioned but always butting up against his desire to be more famous than everyone else. He wants a world in which everybody is equal, but to be worshipped for creating it.

There's a telling moment when Brand tries to explain his idealism to director Oliver Stone. He details his plan to devote himself to "purity of consciousness, passion, love, duty, revolution and change", only after he's become the most famous man in the world. So Stone asks, "OK, so what's the ideology?" Brand doesn't have an answer. The picture is of a man desperate to be remembered as a leader even if he's not sure where he's going. **Olly Richards**

Vote for me!

Celebrities who've
decided they're
politically important



RONALD REAGAN

An unremarkable film actor, Reagan turned his attention to US politics.

SUCCESS? Eight years as President, which wasn't necessarily a good thing.



ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER

People laughed when Arnie announced plans to become Governor of California.

SUCCESS? He served not one term but two.



BEZ

In May, the Happy Mondays' dancer ran for election in Salford and Eccles on behalf of his Reality Party.

SUCCESS? Bez received 703 votes, coming sixth.





Ben Mendelsohn (left) and Ryan Reynolds in *Mississippi Grind*

Worth a punt

There might not be much of a plot, but this whisky-soaked gambling comedy thrills nonetheless

MISSISSIPPI GRIND
15 Ryan Reynolds, Ben Mendelsohn, Sienna Miller
★★★★☆
BUDDY COMEDY GAMBLING WHISKY

THERE'S A REPEATED LINE in *Mississippi Grind* that "the journey's the destination". This is both true for the characters and the film. If you've come for plot, you may find yourself checking your watch. If you're happy to just steep in the lives of complicated,

shifting, funny characters then this is a journey well worth taking. It's sort of a buddy-comedy, though with distinctly depressive elements. It's the feel-contentedly-dolorous film of the year.

Ben Mendelsohn, one of those actors whose name you may not recognise but whose face you will (perhaps from *The Dark Knight Rises*), plays Gerry, an enthusiastic gambler who is always chasing that one big win. Gerry meets Curtis (Ryan Reynolds), a charming young gambler who just does it for fun and can walk away at any time. Over a shared love of whisky and

unearned cash they decide to take a road trip to New Orleans.

They're an inspired team. Mendelsohn will always downplay a moment, while Reynolds will always energise it; the contrast makes them fascinating. The plot's muddiness doesn't matter, the point is in getting to know two broken men and, as their complexities unravel, that isn't always a pleasant process. It's perfectly cast, including a tiny role for 12 Years A Slave's Alfre Woodard as a money-lender and Sienna Miller adding to her comeback roster of little parts in great films as Curtis' girlfriend.

You might not imagine that moments of a man turning over some cards could be particularly nerve-racking, but tension builds unbearably as Gerry's future eternally rests on the roll of a die. As the film moves along you'll be less sure if you want him to win or lose, but he's so well drawn that you'll always care. **Olly Richards**

For more film reviews visit NME.com

A Mississippi Grind travel guide



ST LOUIS

America's 58th biggest city has the largest Bosnian population outside of Bosnia and was named after a French king.



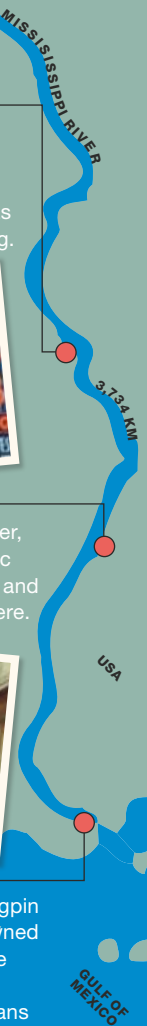
MEMPHIS

The largest city on the river, and a mega famous music town. Elvis, Johnny Cash and Aretha Franklin started here.



NEW ORLEANS

The birthplace of jazz kingpin Louis Armstrong is renowned for its lip-smacking creole cuisine. Louis reportedly signed his letters 'red beans and ricely yours' after one of the city's most famous dishes.



Also out this week

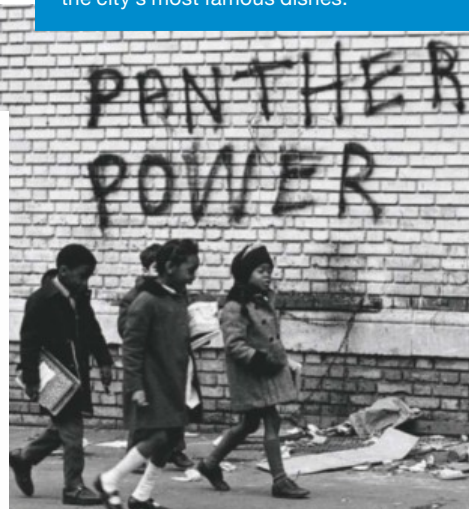


Rose Leslie, Vin Diesel and Elijah Wood

THE LAST WITCH HUNTER
12A Vin Diesel, Rose Leslie, Elijah Wood, Michael Caine
★★★★☆
Vin Diesel stars in this not-so-thrilling thriller as a witch-hunter out to stop the covens of NYC destroying humanity.



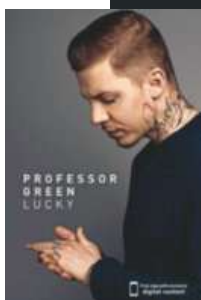
THE BLACK PANTHERS: VANGUARD OF THE REVOLUTION
15 Dir. Stanley Nelson
★★★★☆
With a mixture of archive footage and new interviews, documentary-maker Stanley Nelson attempts to pull apart the story of revolutionary American group the Black Panthers and their fight for equality in the 1960s.



BOOKS

Read'em and weep

The last month has seen a rash of pop people telling 'their story'. **Gavin Haynes** rounds up the rock tomes out now or in the near future



PROFESSOR GREEN
Lucky

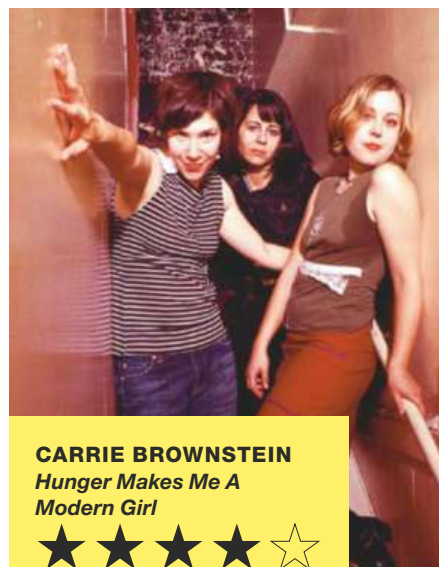


Blink, £8.00

Digested read: Rap kingpin to the V Festival crowd tells the tale of how he made it from his boyhood in Hackney to marrying *Made In Chelsea* star Millie Mackintosh, via being stabbed in the neck outside London club Cargo in 2009. The darkness doesn't end there – there's also his father's suicide and the bizarre moment he got crushed between two cars in 2013.

Life lessons: If you've just nussed someone in a club, leave immediately. Don't hang around for a drink so your victim can come back and glass you.

Telling quote: "That was just one of many moped-powered dramas."



CARRIE BROWNSTEIN
Hunger Makes Me A Modern Girl



Riverhead Books, £16.99

Digested read:

The Sleater-Kinney, Wild Flag and *Portlandia* polymath turns her hand to writing, and turns out to be unsurprisingly good at that too. This

memoir covers her father's belated homosexuality, her own homosexuality, her troubled teenhood after her mother ran out on the family when she was 14, her friendship with Miranda July, the heyday of riot grrrl, panic attacks, shingles and soy allergies.

Life lessons: Even if your post-nuclear family is a bit weird, you can still turn out sensitive and sussed – and possibly launch your own hit alt.comedy franchise.

Telling quote: "We also received the International Male catalogue, a men's underwear catalogue that is essentially a showcase for big European c**ks."



TOM JONES
Over The Top And Back



Penguin, £20

Digested read: In which the former Thomas Woodward makes no mention, across 500 pages, of one extra-marital affair, despite reportedly bedding 250 girls a year. Instead, a flat-pack showbiz memoir narrative plays out: one day he's a hairy vacuum cleaner salesman in Pontypridd, the next he's hanging out with Elvis en route to selling 100 million records.

Life lessons: If a court order has already validated the existence of your 27-year-old love child, it might be polite to give him a mention in your book.

Telling quote: "I was going over as some kind of love god, occasionally I was even persuaded of it myself."

Full reviews of these
and many more books
are on NME.com



ELVIS COSTELLO
Unfaithful Music & Disappearing Ink



Penguin, £25

ELVIS COSTELLO



UNFAITHFUL MUSIC
& DISAPPEARING INK

Digested read: Declan MacManus has long promised a truly weighty rock memoir, and here he drops a 674-page breeze block. From early memories of his father, a singer in a jazz band, to writing his first songs in a “furious whisper” while his wife and infant son slept upstairs, plus an ill-judged remark about Ray Charles that nearly ended his career. There’s plenty of insight into his art here, a smattering of gossip, a wealth of pop-cultural knowledge, and just enough self-flagellation to keep things interesting.

Life lessons: Bearing grudges will f**k you up in day-to-day life. But hang on to them, and they’ll make your memoirs so much more entertaining.

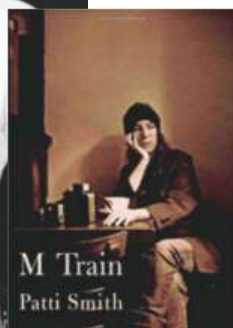
Telling quote: “They gave me a pair of horn-rimmed glasses and said, ‘Put these on.’ It was like Superman in reverse.”



PATTI SMITH
M Train



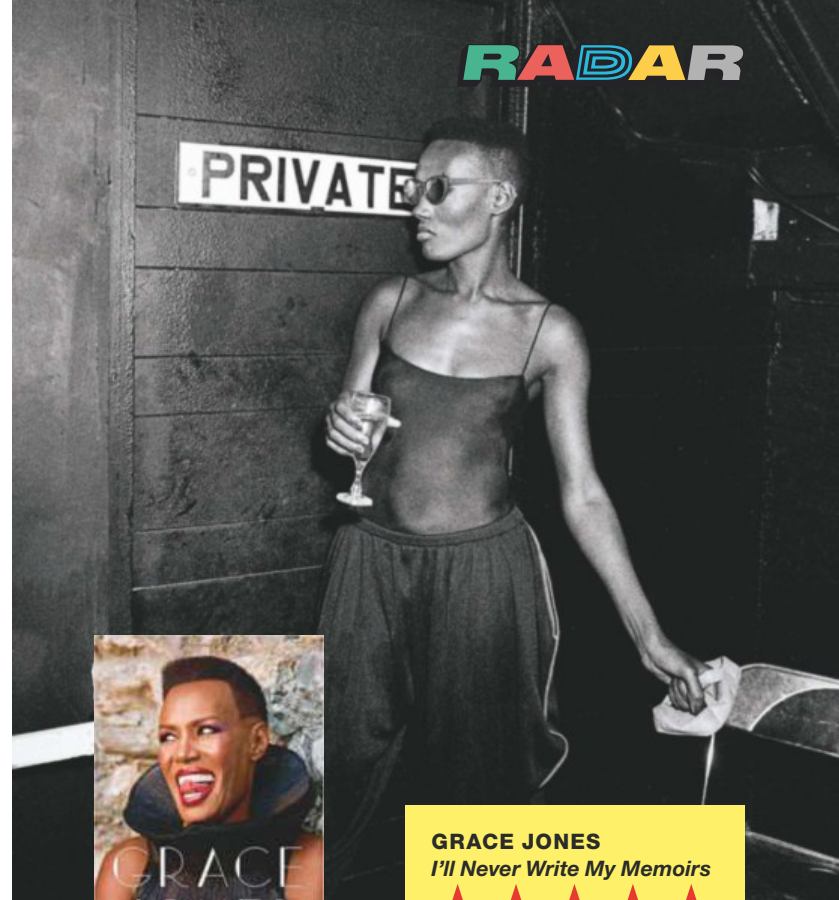
Knopf, £18.99



Digested read: The boho icon follows up her brilliant *Just Kids* with this slim volume. From her membership of a society celebrating the life of a polar geologist, her honeymoon visit to Jean Genet’s Guiana hideout, singing Buddy Holly songs with chess grandmaster Bobby Fischer, to the revelation that she stays at a London hotel solely “to watch ITV3 mystery dramas”, it’s a near-*Seinfeldian* trip into nothing.

Life lessons: It’s not the story you tell – and the multiple pages about her sitting in her fave NYC cafe drinking coffee and eating bread with olive oil are hardly skeleton-bobsled-on-mescaline – it’s how you tell it.

Telling quote: “It’s not so easy writing about nothing.”



GRACE JONES
I'll Never Write My Memoirs



Simone & Schuster, £10

Digested read: Written in collaboration with adjective-happy ex-NME word-squitter Paul Morley, this is a non-trad take on the life of music’s best-loved extra-terrestrial. There are four pages on her first orgasm and an entire chapter on why she’s always late. There’s chilling tales (the late-’80s Aids crisis), comedy (her stint as a nudist), glamour (opposite James Bond) and a Grace-eye view of her infamous Russell Harty chat show meltdown. All that, and the factoid that she always requests 12 oysters on her rider.

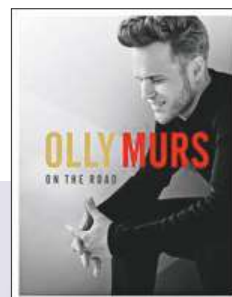
Life lessons: Do not f**k with Grace Jones.

Telling quote: “I still cry when I have a big orgasm... from a combination of pleasure and guilt.”

OLLY MURS
On The Road



Coronet, £18.99



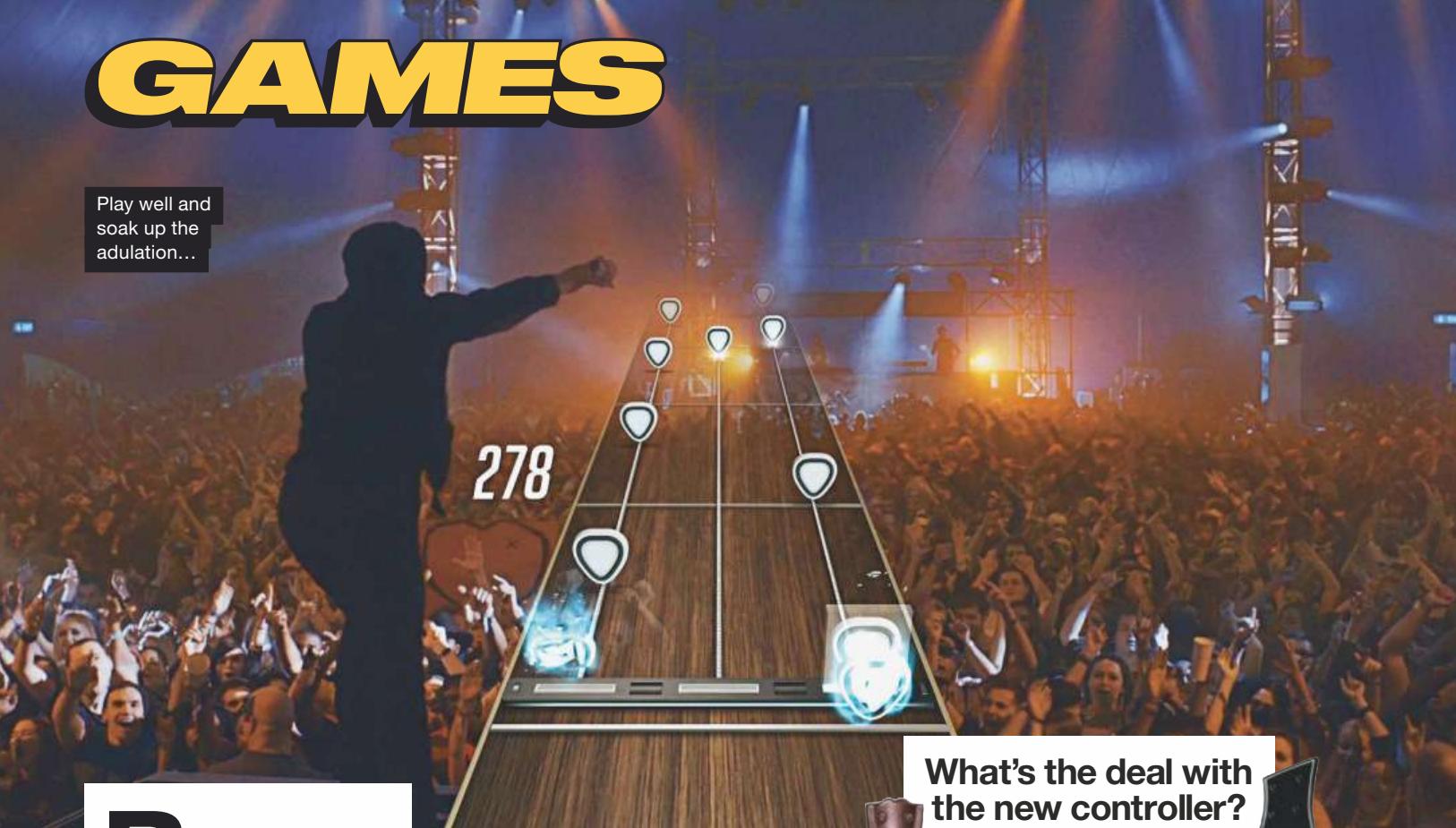
Digested read: Having never heard of Jack Kerouac, the *X Factor* bobble-head releases his sequel to 2012 memoir *Happy Days*. This is the story of being ‘on the road’ with the Mursmeister. Robbie Williams, Jonathan Ross, Russell Brand and other super-obvious green room luminaries turn up, but somehow he never meets Genesis P-Orridge. There’s also the hilarious tale of how he fell “victim to a few terrible practical jokes”.

Life lessons: You might think life at *X Factor* Towers is all snapping Simon Cowell’s waistband and accidentally walking in on Ant & Dec b**mming, but it can have its downsides. Olly cites “unwanted female attention” behind the collapse of his relationship with property manager Francesca Thomas.

Telling quote: “A lot of my fans are girls, so it can cause problems.”



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FESTIVALS RHYTHM
BE-A-ROCK STAR

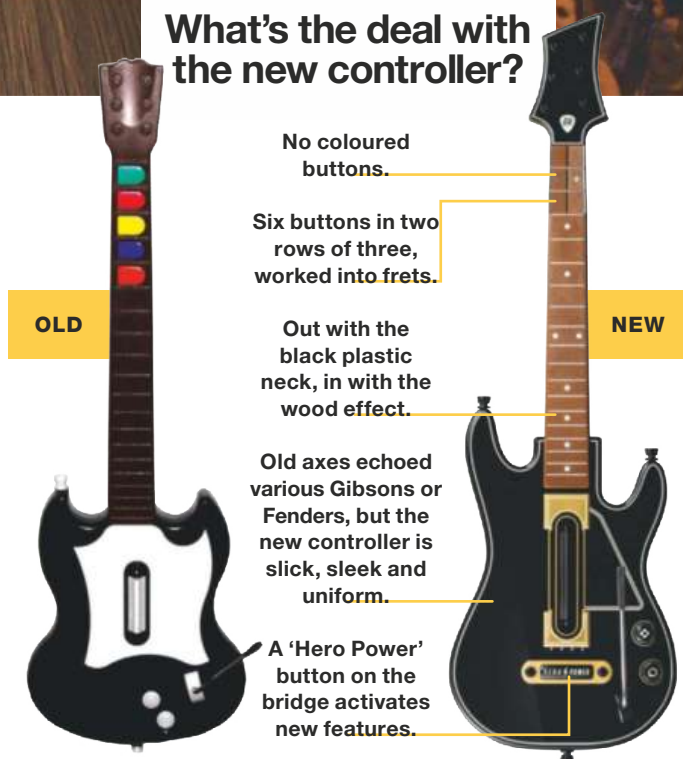
AS PLAY-ALONG-TO- 'Basketcase'-on-a-plastic-Fender games go, this is Blur vs Oasis in 1995. After a five-year release gap each, both *Rock Band* and *Guitar Hero* are back this month in what no one's yet calling the Battle Of Tap-pop. The recent *Rock Band 4* took a back-to-basics consolidation approach, simply making the art of hitting notes rocketing at you down an on-screen highway smoother and more bandmate-friendly. *Guitar Hero Live*, on the other hand, takes the whole genre into a brand new dimension. Real life. Like the *Simpsons* episode where Homer is sucked down a

wormhole into live-action west Hollywood, *GHL*'s background visuals plonk you onto a stage playing guitar in a real human band to an authentic – if digitally expanded – festival crowd. Play well and your bandmates will crowd surf and ecstatic fans will faint at your feet. Fumble riffs like a drunk Fat White Family and the 'YOU SUCK' signs will come out, bottles of unsavoury liquids will come flying and angry kids will invade the stage to try to wrestle the guitar off you. With your view filmed on a massive, careering Dalek of a camera, this is the closest you'll get to being in a major rock band until it's your turn to be the special guest on the next Taylor Swift tour.

Meanwhile, a new six-button guitar controller – three at the top and three at the bottom, allowing for chord-like tapping patterns – means *GHL* is a captivating experience that won't wear thin quickly. There's also hundreds of songs pre-packaged and a GHTV channel option that allows you to play along to a catalogue of curated videos, like the brilliant-sounding '80s MTV' your dad gets misty-eyed about. So good you'll get stage fright. **Mark Beaumont**

For more games reviews and previews go to NME.com

What's the deal with the new controller?



...Play badly and soak up the p*ss bottles

YOU HEARD IT HERE FIRST

“You can never do a song the same way twice”

L-r: Will Toledo, Andrew Katz and Ethan Ives

DANIEL TOPETE, JOE PLIMMER, SHERVIN LAINEZ

Car Seat Headrest

Seattle trio led by a 22-year-old tunesmith with 11 albums to his name

WILL TOLEDO, the Seattle-based musician known as Car Seat Headrest, used to be so self-conscious about recording vocals for his lo-fi bedroom project that he'd drive to a quiet car park and sing into his mic there. Sat in the divey Pianos venue on New York's Lower

East Side, Toledo's just finished his first experience of recording in a *proper* studio with a *proper* producer and, in a rare calm moment midway through CMJ festival, he laughs at the reminder of his former ways.

“I was intimidated at times,” says Will of having to play and sing in front of other people during the recording process. “But it was easier than I expected.”

Toledo has released 11 albums over the past five years, rife with teenage angst but also big, ambitious ideas. ‘How To Leave Town’, for instance, is full of spacey epics, while ‘Nervous Young Man’ is his “conceptual double album”.

His Bandcamp page is a veritable treasure trove with heaps of free songs to trawl through,

but Toledo has made it easier for newcomers by re-recording a clutch of his best songs with a full band for his Matador debut, ‘Teens Of Style’. Is that a cop out? Not in his eyes: “You can never do a song the same way twice, even if you try,” he reasons.

Besides, he's already got his 13th LP in the bag. The “simpler, poppier” ‘Teens Of Denial’ is due next year and boasts an eight-minute song called ‘Vincent’, which Toledo describes with a grin as “definitely the funkiest thing Car Seat Headrest have ever done”. With his prolific nature, he'll have eclipsed it with something else soon enough. **Rhian Daly**

Details

LISTEN ‘Teens Of Style’ is released on October 30

FACT Car Seat Headrest's sets at CMJ were so buzzy that even Ed Sheeran turned up to watch him play

LIVE London Servant Jazz Quarters (November 17)

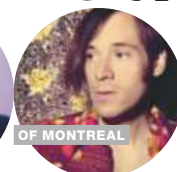
SOCIAL @carseatheadrest

For more on Car Seat Headrest, head to NME.com

Best track FOR FANS OF

Something Soon

Depressive lyrics masked by rousing melodies, rattling drums and church organ synths



Car Seat Headrest play the NME Showcase at CMJ, New York, October 14, 2015

Live

THE 10 MOST IMPORTANT
GIGS THIS WEEK



1

Catfish And The Bottlemen

Wednesday 28 The Great Hall, Exeter

Thursday 29 University SU, Cardiff

WHO: Van McCann and his band of merry men: one of British indie's great new hopes.

WHY: Their shows are reminiscent of early Arctic Monkeys' gigs – full of energy, adoration and excitement. 'Kathleen', 'Pacifier' and 'Rango' are indie bangers.

WHO'S SUPPORTING:

New York duo The London Souls.

TICKETS: Sold out, but available on secondary ticketing sites from £30.86

2

Radkey

Monday 26 The Green Door Store, Brighton

Tuesday 27 Exchange, Bristol

Wednesday 28 Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

Thursday 29 Leadmill, Sheffield

WHO: Hard-rocking Missouri brothers Dee, Isaiah and Solomon Radke.

WHY: Recent debut LP 'Dark Black Makeup' delivered scorching riffs aplenty on the likes of 'Evil Doer' and 'Hunger Pain'. Expect them to be ramped up to 11 when played live.

WHO'S SUPPORTING:

Bludgeoning Brummie rock duo God Damn.

TICKETS: £9.90 from NME.com/tickets





3

Father John Misty

Friday 23 QUBSU, Belfast
Monday 26 The Plug, Sheffield
Tuesday 27 The Junction, Cambridge
Wednesday 28 & Thursday 29 O2 Shepherds Bush Empire, London

WHO: Melodramatic raconteur and former Fleet Foxes drummer Josh Tillman.
WHY: Misty is part sardonic showman, part suave romancer.
WHO'S SUPPORTING: Singer-songwriter Anna B Savage.
TICKETS: Belfast £22.50 from openhousefestival.ticketsolve.com; everywhere else sold out, but try secondary ticketing sites for tickets starting at £39



5

Katy B

Friday 23 Motion, Bristol

WHO: Flame-haired south London dance queen who broke through with 2011's 'On A Mission', and has collaborated with the likes of Mark Ronson and Magnetic Man.
WHY: Her dancers and upbeat stage presence bring the party

vibes, but Katy's voice is the real draw here, veering from the slick pop of 'Lights On' to the emotional hooks of 'Crying For No Reason'.
WHO'S SUPPORTING: Garage hero Ms Dynamite, EDM, grime and trap DJ Siobhan Bell and more.
TICKETS: £8.80 from ents24.com

live

4

!!!

Friday 23 & Saturday 24 Oslo, London

WHO: Sacramento-born stalwarts of dance-punk who were doing the unpronounceable band name thing while Ho99o9 were still a glint in the milkman's eye.

WHY: Six albums in and the sextet are showing no signs of mellowing, with the house-influenced 'Sick Ass Moon' and current album 'As If' confirming their party credentials.

WHO'S SUPPORTING: Glaswegian electronica producers General Ludd.

TICKETS: Sold out, but some tickets are available from £79.99 on secondary ticketing sites



6

MØ

Wednesday 28 XOYO, London

WHY: Debut 'No Mythologies To Follow' came out last year, so new songs are likely. Watch out for the juicy chorus on 2013 single 'Pilgrim' too.

WHO'S SUPPORTING: tbc
TICKETS: £15 from NME.com/tickets

WHO: Danish maker of stylish electronic pop. Think Grimes, but sleeker and marginally less freaky. Once covered the Spice Girls.

For tour news and live reviews go to NME.com



live

7

Songhoy Blues

Friday 23 Brudenell Social Club, Leeds

Sunday 25 Gorilla, Manchester

Monday 26 Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

Tuesday 27 The Fleece, Bristol

WHO: Jimi Hendrix-influenced Malian group who were the focus

of recent documentary *They Will Have To Kill Us First*.

WHY: Their live shows are full of wild guitar solos, tightknit percussion and hints of R&B, Krautrock and more.

WHO'S SUPPORTING: Tremulous indie types Blaenavon.

TICKETS: Manchester £13.20 from NME.com/tickets; all other dates sold out

8

Ekkah

Saturday 24 Brudenell Social Club, Leeds

WHO: Buzzy, Nile Rodgers-worshipping Birmingham duo Rebecca Wilson and Rebekah

Pennington, who put the 'disco' in indie disco.

WHY: From dance routines to saxophone solos, the pair's sparkly, sultry pop is never boring, while 'Last Chance To Dance' is an ultimately sassy floor-filler.

WHO'S SUPPORTING: Dark pop from Brighton in the shape of Yonaka.

TICKETS: £6.60 from NME.com/tickets

10

Hooton Tennis Club

Friday 23 Think Tank, Newcastle

Saturday 24 Chameleon Café, Nottingham

Monday 26 The Joiners, Southampton

Tuesday 27 The Green Door Store, Brighton

Wednesday 28 Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

Thursday 29 Hoxton Bar & Grill, London

WHO: Wirral Heavenly signings

WHY: 'Powerful Pierre' and 'Up In The Air' are full of scratchy melodies.

WHO'S SUPPORTING: Madrid punk gang The Parrots.

TICKETS: £5.50-£8 from NME.com/tickets

9

Cat Power

Tuesday 27 Albert Hall, Manchester

Wednesday 28 & Thursday 29 St John-At-Hackney Church, London

WHO: Longstanding Atlanta singer-songwriter Chan Marshall.

WHY: The 43-year-old has spoken previously about having crippling stage fright, which lends her live shows an intimate, affecting vibe.

WHO'S SUPPORTING: No details yet

TICKETS: Manchester £27.50 from NME.com/tickets; London sold out, but tickets doing the rounds on secondary ticketing sites from £44.79

Best of the rest



All Tvvins

Mon 26 Shipping Forecast, Liverpool

Beach House

Sat 24 QUBSU, Belfast
Mon 26 O2 ABC, Glasgow
Tue 27 The Ritz, Manchester

Bear's Den

Sun 25 Trinity, Bristol
Mon 26 Wedgewood Rooms, Portsmouth
Tue 27 Roundhouse, London

Best Coast

Thu 29 Electric Brixton, London

Big Narstie

Fri 23 Sub89, Reading

Blackalicious

Tue 27 Cluny, Newcastle
Thu 29 Rescue Rooms, Nottingham

Broken Hands

Wed 28 Soup Kitchen, Manchester
Thu 29 Broadcast, Glasgow

Dappy

Mon 26 O2 ABC, Glasgow
Tue 27 Academy, Manchester
Wed 28 O2 Academy, Newcastle

Dave McCabe & The Ramifications

Fri 23 Bodega Social Club, Nottingham
Sat 24 The Harley, Sheffield

East India Youth

Sat 24 Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
Wed 28 Summerhall, Edinburgh
Thu 29 Lemon Tree, Aberdeen

Femme

Tue 27 Gullivers, Manchester
Thu 29 Start The Bus, Bristol

Fraser A Gorman

Tue 27 Castle Hotel, Manchester
Wed 28 Sebright Arms, London

Haelos

Mon 26 Night & Day, Manchester
Tue 27 The Laundry, London

Half Moon Run

Mon 26 KOKO, London
Wed 28 Gorilla, Manchester

Health

Mon 26 Stereo, Glasgow
Tue 27 Gorilla, Manchester
Wed 28 Heaven, London

Ian McCulloch

Sat 24 Kenton Theatre, Henley

Knife Party

Thu 29 Warehouse Project, Manchester

Kode9

Fri 23 Shipping Forecast, Liverpool

Lady Leshurr

Sun 25 O2 ABC, Glasgow
Mon 26 Sound Control, Manchester
Tue 27 Hoxton Bar & Grill, London
Wed 28 The Institute, Birmingham



READERS' PICK



Charlie, 17,
from Grimsby
@cgireland

Spector

Sat 24 Leadmill, Sheffield
"Spector at the Leadmill!
I can't wait to hear the new
material live."

Lapsley

Tue 27 Portland Arms, Cambridge
Wed 28 Waterfront, Norwich
Thu 29 Clwb Ifor Bach, Cardiff

Maribou State

Tue 27 Village Underground, London
Wed 28 Exchange, Bristol
Thu 29 The Haunt, Brighton

Mates Of State

Mon 26 Soup Kitchen, Manchester
Tue 27 Hug & Pint, Glasgow
Wed 28 Headrow House, Leeds

Mike Krol

Mon 26 Boilerroom, Guildford
Tue 27 Start The Bus, Bristol
Wed 28 Eagle Inn, Manchester
Thu 29 Shacklwell Arms, London

Prides

Mon 26 Hemelvaart Bier Café, Ayton
Tue 27 Duchess, York
Wed 28 Sugarmill, Stoke-On-Trent
Thu 29 O2 Academy, Liverpool

Purity Ring

Tue 27 Plug, Sheffield
Wed 28 The Junction, Cambridge
Thu 29 Roundhouse, London

Real Lies

Friday 23 Belgrave Music Hall, Leeds
Saturday 24 Soup Kitchen, Manchester

Soak

Tue 27 Union Chapel, London
Thu 29 Concorde 2, Brighton

Slug

Mon 26 The Harley, Sheffield
Tue 27 Rainbow Venues, Birmingham
Wed 28 The Hope, Brighton
Thu 29 Music Hall, Ramsgate

Neon Waltz play
Ku Bar, Stockton-On-
Tees on **Thursday,**
October 29

Spector

Sat 24 Leadmill, Sheffield
Sun 25 Brudenell Social Club, Leeds
Tue 27 Patterns, Brighton
Wed 28 O2 Academy, Oxford
Thu 29 Heaven, London

The Staves

Sat 24 Albert Hall, Manchester
Sun 25 University SU, Newcastle
Mon 26 Old Fruitmarket, Glasgow
Tue 27 Met Uni SU, Leeds

Susanne Sundfor

Mon 26 The Haunt, Brighton
Tue 27 KOKO, London
Wed 28 Deaf Institute, Manchester
Thu 29 Brudenell Social Club, Leeds

Telegram

Wed 28 Shipping Forecast, Liverpool

US Girls

Mon 26 Headrow House, Leeds
Tue 27 Broadcast, Glasgow
Wed 28 Corsica Studios, London

Vant

Wed 28 Voodoo, Belfast

Waxahatchee

Thu 29 Islington Assembly Hall, London

Wiley

Thu 29 Shooshh, Brighton

The Wombats

Fri 23 Guild Of Students, Liverpool

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| 18 PORTSMOUTH PYRAMIDS | 26 LEEDS BECKETT'S UNIVERSITY |
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| 21 MANCHESTER ALBERT HALL | 28 LONDON O ₂ FORUM |

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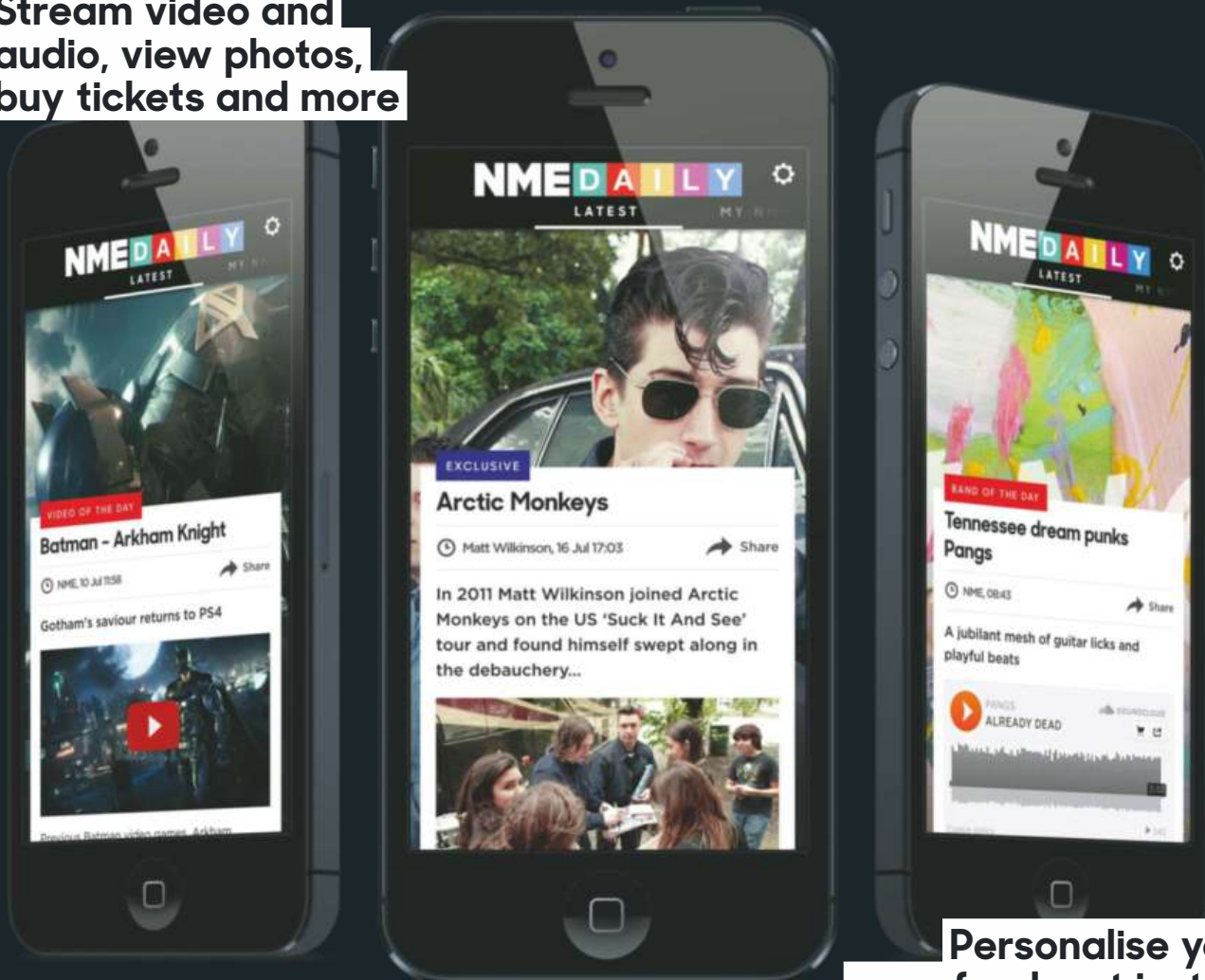
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SOUNDTRACK OF MY LIFE

Elijah Wood

Ex-Hobbit, currently in *Cooties*

The first song I remember hearing

MICHAEL JACKSON
Thriller

"I remember when the video premiered on MTV, it was a real big thing. My whole family gathered around the TV to watch, but the beginning of the video is like a horror movie and I found it absolutely terrifying! I remember running into the basement for refuge, and though the basement was a terrifying place for me too, I felt safer there than in front of the TV."



The first album I bought

PRINCE
Batman

"I was a huge Prince fan and a huge Batman fan, and at the time I thought the songs 'Batdance' and 'Partyman' were awesome, so I went out and bought the soundtrack album with my own money. Looking back, it's not one of Prince's best albums, but it has 'Arms Of Orion' on it and that's still a dope song."



The song I do at karaoke

PULP

This Is Hardcore

"It's just a great karaoke song. I did it recently at karaoke as a duet with [Spanish filmmaker] Nacho Vigalondo. It's a relatively easy song for me to sing because Jarvis' vocal register is pretty low and mine's relatively low too. I was screwed when I tried to do Stevie Wonder's 'Superstition' because of all the high notes."

The first song I fell in love with

THE TEMPTATIONS
My Girl

"I was about eight when I got into this song. I think I just heard it on the radio one day, it was definitely before it was used in the film *My Girl*. I remember listening to it over and over again and asking my mum for a 'Best Of The Temptations' album because this song resonated with me so much. It just hit me on a really deep level."

The song I can no longer listen to

UGLY KID JOE

Everything About You

"This was a big hit on the radio when I was growing up. I guess it's sort of a medium-tempo dirty rock'n'roll song about hating somebody. At the time it felt like a novelty because it was so angry and belligerent, but in a funny way. In retrospect, it's just a terrible, terrible song. I think even the band may acknowledge that now."



The song I can't get out of my head

THE SUNDAYS

Homeward

"I'm a big Sundays fan and this is an awesome song from their final album, 'Static & Silence'. I was listening to it yesterday and I've had it stuck in my head for the last 24 hours. I want Harriet Wheeler to come back, please. She needs to make another record."

Go to NME.com for more Soundtracks



The song that makes me want to dance

LCD SOUNDSYSTEM

All My Friends

"The build that this song has is just incredible. It's one groove but it keeps getting tighter and tighter; it's a masterpiece. I'm a DJ and I love playing it in my sets."

The song I want played at my funeral

PINK FLOYD

Fearless

"F**k, dude! I'd want it to be something celebratory and this song has a lifting, lilting vibe to its chord progression. It ends on those chords and a load of people singing, which I think was recorded at a football match. It feels weirdly appropriate for a funeral, I think."



The wisdom of the *NME* archives

THIS WEEK

BOB GELDOF

Musician and activist
October 20, 1979

"Ambitions are things you'll probably attain; a dream is something that you hope you'll attain. An ambition is more readily definable than a dream, a dream has a nebulous quality."



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